Board of Education
January 11, 2022 – Regular Meeting
Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Alexander Oliphant, Vice Chair Mary Tomasi, Donna Antonacci, Maguerite Gignac, Rosemary Gignac, Jessica Morozowich at 7:03 pm, one vacancy.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Bacon Academy Principal Matt Peel, Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara, William J. Johnston Middle School Principal Chris Bennett, Director of Teaching and Learning Charles Hewes, Director of Education Operations Mario Hurtado, Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby, Chief Financial Officer M. Cosgrove.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Finance Liaison Michael Egan.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Oliphant called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

2.1 New Agenda Items

No new items were requested.

3. RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

None at this time.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Russell Melmed, Chair of the Youth Services Advocacy Board (YSAB), said he appreciated the support of the Board of Education and thanked the Board for appointing R. Gignac as liaison to the YSAB. The Youth Coalition's Survey data is very important to support to Youth Services for grants and programs.

Carla Roselli introduced herself and said she will give comments later under Item 7.3 CT Grown for CT Kids Grant.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Pandemic Update

A lot of recent changes regarding quarantine have happened and now contact tracing is not required making that new position unnecessary. A rise in cases was seen at the beginning of January and a new reporting system is on the website. Superintendent Burt will continue to review the guidance given by the State of Connecticut.

5.2 Communications

No public communications were received.

6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING

6.1 4111.1P Equal Employment Opportunity
6.2 4118.5P Employee Use of District's Computer System
6.3 1120P Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

As this is the first reading, no action was taken. Item 6.1 will be sent back to the Policy Committee for further review.

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Project Oceanology 2022-2021 CRC Interdistrict Program

Project Oceanology has invited Colchester Public Schools (CPS) to participate in the 2022-2023 Connecticut Rivers Connections (CRC) interdistrict program. Project Oceanology's CRC program brings students of diverse backgrounds together to learn and apply scientific inquiry practices related to the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound environments. This is a legacy grant program for students that CPS has participated in for several years with student data collected and submitted to the State of Connecticut.

Motion by: M. Tomasi
to approve the Colchester Publics Schools' participation in Project Oceanology's Connecticut River Connection program.
Second by: M. Gignac.
Vote: Unanimous to approve by those present.

7.2 Youth Coalition Survey

This is an anonymous online survey taken during class for 6 through 12th grade students given every two years and students may opt out. The data is used to help with grants and substance abuse programs. The subject of the survey is the youth in the community, not the public schools.

Charity Benedict, Colchester Coalition Coordinator, said the survey is given on a continuous basis and will continue for ten years, if funded. At this time, the funding will allow a survey for 2022 and 2024. A presentation will be given when the survey is completed.

Motion by: M. Tomasi
to approve the Colchester Youth Services Survey for the years 2022 and 2024.
Second by: R. Gignac.
Vote: Unanimous to approve to approve by those present.

7.3 CT Grown for CT Kids Grant

The CT Grown for CT Kids Grant is a statewide grant program to help establish and further farm to school initiatives. Students will learn where foods come from, how they are produced, and include growing, identifying and tasting foods.

Agriculture Commission Vice Chair Carla Roselli presented information regarding the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant. This item will be on a future agenda for approval after the grant is awarded.

7.4 CABE Membership Discussion

As services from the CABE membership are available to the Board for a fee without the $10,000 membership fee and several services are available through other sources, Superintendent Burt felt there are greater opportunities for less funds.

7.5 Finance Department Reorganization

Due to the retirement and resignation of three finance department positions, Superintendent Burt is proposing a possible change to the shared positions that may also be a cost savings.

J. Morozwich joined the meeting during Item 7.5.

8. GRANTS/OTHR FINANCIALS

8.1 Approval of Donation of Materials to BA

Principal Peel stated Colchester Toyota offered to donate equipment that would benefit students by learning on industry standard equipment. Toyota offered training for teachers and students and a possibility of additional equipment. This is a good partnership with a business supporting the school system.

Motion by: D. Antonacci
to approve the donation of a Hunter GSP9000 wheel balancer has a used retail market in the range of $5500-$7800 to Bacon Academy and to thank Toyota of Colchester for their generous donation.
Second by: M. Tomasi.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.2 Approval of Wireless Bid

The bid includes various work at each school. Director Smith explained that there is a five to six month lead time and the work would be done in the summer months. This bid is in the amount of $191,583.

Motion by: M. Tomasi
to approve the recommended wireless project bid for Colchester Public Schools.
Second by: M. Gignac.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

8.3 Raptor Emergency Management System

Superintendent reviewed the proposed emergency management system. This system will tie into the current visitor system and will elevate the existing security plan. The proposal for the Raptor System is for $136,000 with a recurring $7,000 cost.

8.4 Budget Transfers over $5,000 (None at this time)

9. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT

9.1 Approval of Quarantine Student Learner Coordinator Job Description

Due to changes to the quarantine and contact tracing policies, that previously discussed position is not necessary. The new quarantine Student Learner Coordinator will be two part-time as needed, in person positions and not permanent. One position will be at CES and one at JJIS.

Motion by: D. Antonacci
to approve the Quarantine Student Learner Coordinator job description.
Second by: J. Morozowich.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

10. POLICIES/REGUATIONS FOR A SECOND READING (none)

11. POLICIES RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL (none)

12. NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICIES (none at this time)

13. CONSENT AGENDA

13.1 Approval of December 14, 2021 BOE Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by: M. Gignac
to approve the December 14, 2021 Regular Minutes a read.
Second by: J. Morozowich.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13.2 Request for Disposal: JJIS Obsolete Unit Material
Motion by: J. Morozowich
to approve the requests for disposal of JJIS obsolete unit material.
Second by: M. Tomasi.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13.3 Request for Disposal: CES Media Center Books
Motion by: M. Tomasi
to approve the request for disposal of CES Media Center books.
Second by: M. Gignac.
Vote: Unanimous to approve

13.4 Request for Disposal: BA Career and Technical Education Items
Motion by: J. Morozowich
to approve the requests for disposal of BA Career and Technical Education item.
Second by: M. Gignac.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

14.1. Policy - No report
14.2 Budget - J. Morozowich said the cafeteria is still experiencing delivery and supply shortages, excess costs are coming in, there are no major health insurance issues.
14.3 Personnel – No report
14.4 Ad-Hoc Curriculum – No report
14.5 Ad-Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – No report

15. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

1. Board of Selectmen – Donna Antonacci
2. Board of Finance – Margo Gignac
3. P&R Parent Commission – Rotating Members
4. PTO Collaborative – Marg Gignac
5. C3 Collaborative - vacancy
6. Commission on Aging – Mary Tomasi
7. CORE Commission: Jessica Morozowich
8. Youth & Social Services: Rosemary Gignac

No reports at this time.

16. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION ITEMS

16.1 Next Meetings

Board of Education	February 8, 2022	6:00 PM	Virtual
Policy Committee	February 16, 2022	5:30 PM	Virtual
Budget Committee	February 3, 2022	9:00 AM	Virtual
PersonnelCommittee	February 28, 2022	5:30 PM	Virtual

16.2 Monthly Student Enrollment for January is 2,270 students.
16.3 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes
16.4 Monthly Budget Reports
16.5 Cafeteria Fund
16.6 Regulations (None at this time)
16.7 Notice of Retirement/Resignations
1. Jessica Taylor
2. Judy Ladegard
3. Edy Torres
4. Danielle Battaglino

17. PUBLIC COMMENT

BOF Liaison M. Egan stated his support for the reorganization of the Finance Department.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

18.1 Superintendent's Mid-year Evaluation

Motion by: M. Tomasi
to go into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Mid-year Evaluation and the Staff Request for Leave of Absence and to invite Superintendent Burt and Director of Human Resources Shannon Ramsby into the session.
Second by: M. Gignac.
Vote: Unanimous to approve. Time: 8:00 pm

Chair Oliphant brought the Board out of Executive Session at 9:26 pm.
See action below.

18.2 Staff Request for Leave of Absence
See above

19. POSSIBLE ACTION OF LEAVE REQUEST

Motion by: M. Tomasi
to approve the staff request for leave of absence.
Second by: M. Gignac.
Vote: Unanimous to approve.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Oliphant adjourned this meeting at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary